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ABSTRACT

Eleven articles and documents selected from the ERIC indexes, "Resources in Education" and "Current Index to Journals in Education" for 1983 are listed in this bibliography. Emphasis is on criteria for selecting and purchasing educational software for microcomputers. Several articles cover software evaluation issues and describe specific procedures for evaluating programs. Evaluation checklists are included in several publications cited. In addition to bibliographical information and the annotation, ERIC accession numbers are provided for each citation. (LMM)

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MICROCOMPUTER SOFTWARE EVALUATION
A Selected ERIC Bibliography

Citations in this bibliography were selected from the Education Resources Information Center (ERIC) indexes Resources in Education and Current Index to Journals in Education for 1983. Descriptors used to locate them were Microcomputers, Computer Programs and Evaluation Criteria. Identifiers used were Software Evaluation and Software Reviews.

Ahl, David H. Selecting and buying educational software. Creative Computing Software Buyer's Guide, 1983, 24, 26, 28. (Available UMI: EJ 285 807)

Guidelines under the following headings: educational soundness, appropriateness, challenge-progress, motivation and reward, correctness, compatibility, instructions. Includes sources of software reviews.

Barden, William, Jr. What to do after you plug it in? How to buy software. Popular Computing, January 1983, 2(3) 54-57. (Available UMI: EJ 273 027)

Discusses the selection and purchase of microcomputer software, recommending that buyers beware of free or undemonstrated software, buy software written in assembly language, and evaluate the company as well as the software. A software evaluation checklist is included.

Bostrom, K., et. al. An evaluative study of the effects and effectiveness of microcomputer-based teaching in schools. Leeds, England: Leeds University, 1982. (ERIC Document Reproduction Service No. ED 224 461; MF-$.97/PC-$5.65)

Research report describes secondary teachers' evaluation and classroom utilization of computer assisted instruction (CAI). Includes 15 references and 3 appendices listing available CAI programs, data collection instruments, and a summary of the classroom interaction scheme.

Caldwell, Robert M. Evaluation of microcomputer software: How valid are the criteria and procedures? Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southwest Educational Research Association, Houston, TX, January 1983. (ERIC Document Reproduction Service No. ED 230 171; MF-$.97/PC-$2.15)

Discusses three issues critical to the establishment of valid criteria and procedures for determining effective use of computer-based instruction: criteria should be research validated; raters should be qualified; classroom instructional models should be developed before software is purchased.

Cohen, Vicki Blum. Criteria for the evaluation of microcomputer courseware. Educational Technology, January 1983, 23(1) 9-14. (Available UMI: EJ 279 832)

Discusses criteria unique to the design of microcomputer courseware, as well as standards used in instructional design in general.

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Criteria for reviews on instructional software. Computers in Chemical Education Newsletter, December 1982, 5(4) 12-14.

Provides criteria for evaluating microcomputer software. Categories include: (1) features/intent; (2) ease of use (documentation, operation, error handling, flexibility); (3) subject matter content; (4) pedagogic value; (5) student reaction; (6) recommendations for improvement; and (7) a summary section.

Jay, Timothy B. The cognitive approach to computer courseware design and evaluation. Educational Technology, January 1983, 23(1), 22-26. (Available UMI: EJ 279 834)

Focuses on five human information processing abilities which cognitive psychologists anticipate must be accounted for in order to develop good computer courseware--memory and attention; language or text characteristics; graphics and visual processing; cognitive characteristics of user; feedback to users. A 31-item bibliography is included.

Lathrop, Ann. Microcomputer courseware: Selection and evaluation. Top of the News, Spring 1983, 39(3), 265-74. (Available UMI: EJ 281 414)

Discusses evaluation of microcomputer courseware for school libraries, noting the evaluation process (selecting evaluation instrument, selecting and obtaining courseware for review) and steps of the evaluation process. Sources of evaluation instruments and courseware reviews and evaluation forms of California Library Media Consortium for Classroom Evaluation of Microcomputer Courseware are appended.

Riordon, Tim. How to select software you can trust. Classroom Computer News, March 1983, 3(4), 56-61. (Available UMI: EJ 277 050)

Answers to questions related to selecting software are provided: (1) accident-proof software; (2) easy-to-understand directions; (3) computer instructions; (4) help following incorrect response; (5) use with nonreaders. Includes checklist for user-friendly software.

Sanders, Roger L., Sanders, Mary Ellen. Evaluating microcomputer software. Computers, Reading and Language Arts, Summer 1983, 1(1), 21-25.

Suggests what to look for when evaluating software and its support literature; includes a software evaluation checklist.

The software line-up: What reviewers look for when evaluating software. Electronic Learning, October 1982, 2(2), 45-48.

Contains a check list to aid teachers in evaluating software used in computer-assisted instruction on microcomputers. Evaluation form contains three sections: program description, program evaluation, and overall evaluation.

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Citations with ED accession numbers are documents from RIE, which can be read at an ERIC microfiche collection or ordered through EDRS, P.O. Box 190, Arlington, VA 22210. Citations with EJ accession numbers are journal articles from CIJE, which can be obtained from a library or ordered through UMI, 300 N. Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48106 ($12.00 per article).

February 1984